

And again, I will happily debate these wrongheaded measures on the floor of this body any day of the week, but this attempt to ram these unacceptable provisions through the House without a debate or a vote is simply wrong. And I can't think of a more demoralizing message to send to our fighting forces than that a majority of Congress is willing, for political expediency's sake, to load down a war funding bill with unrelated, unpopular provisions.

When I served in the United States Navy, we feared the annual games politicians played with military funding. It made us angry to know that we were tasked with a mission, and then politicians played politics with the resources we needed to complete that mission.

Mr. Speaker, I did not come here to play that game. There is no honor in a vote that conditions the funding for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen on satisfying an unrelated political agenda. This Congress must not cheapen and degrade our military to simply move forward with political interests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HENSARLING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARINE CORPORAL JOE PIRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great American, Marine Corporal Joe Piram of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. We literally owe our way of life to people like him.

It's important for us to remember, Mr. Speaker, that every freedom we enjoy, every moment of safety and every dream we have for the future that we hold was purchased with the blood and sacrifice of our military families. We should not only be thankful for the reality of our quality of life, but for those who laid theirs down to make it possible.

We're aware of the things that make our society run—electricity, gasoline, money, jobs, for example—but our society also runs on values, honesty, integrity, service and sacrifice. Our national progress can truly be measured by the quality of our spirit. Here again, our military families epitomize these essential American values. They're role models for all of us to follow.

So with that introduction, I want to highlight the service of one of the thousands of brave men and women who do amazing things for the rest of us every day.

Joe Piram graduated from Eden Prairie High School in 2004. Joining the Marines had been something he wanted to do all of his life, and the passion was fueled by the tragedy of September 11, which played a key role in his decision.

We talk about the threat that al Qaeda represents to our world, and we deplore their savagery and their ruthlessness. Corporal Piram chose to go out and fight them over there so that we could be safe here. He's now served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. His unit was called "The Lions of the Desert" because of the courage and the strength and heart with which they carried out their missions.

Near the end of his most recent tour, however, just about a year ago, he was injured by an IED. He suffered burns over almost 40 percent of his body. In the months since then, he's put the same determination in his recovery that he put into his military service. With the strong support of his family and his own resilient spirit, he's making great progress and doing well. As a matter of fact, when a reporter from the Eden Prairie newspaper called and spoke with him recently, he had just completed a 5K race at an event in Florida.

Joe's recovery is going well, and he's making ambitious plans for when he leaves the military. It's no surprise that he's looking for new ways to use his talents and his values to serve our country in law enforcement, and maybe running for political office.

We have a tremendous country here in the United States. We're not perfect, but we're still the envy of a large majority of people around the world.

Through all the generations of American history, people like Joe have quietly stepped forward to take on the Nation's toughest jobs. They don't do it for fame or for fortune. They simply do it because they love their country, and they translate that love into a sense of duty and service.

Corporal Joe Piram, I honor you and I thank you. We all thank you. We also appreciate your family who raised you, who supported you in your recovery and, in a very tangible way, has also served with you.

With you in mind, we here in Washington can try a little harder today to make this country worthy of the price you have paid to make it great.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MANZULLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT JEFFREY JORDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this week the residents of a small town in Georgia's 11th Congressional District are grieving together as they say goodbye to a native son who died while bravely serving his Nation in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Jeffrey W. Jordan was killed in action on June 4, 2009, near Kapisa, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Jeffrey was born and raised in Floyd County and, after high school, he settled in a very close-knit town of Cave Springs, Georgia, with his wife, Lacey, and his son, Tailor. Tragically, the Jordan family marked Tailor's first birthday on the very same day his father gave his life in defense of our Nation.

Jeffrey is remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother, grandson, friend and patriot whose sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jordan leaves behind his wife, Lacey Lambert Jordan, his son, Tailor Jordan; his parents, Mary Lou and Tracy Lorin Dowdy; his brothers, Robert Jordan and J.R. Thomason; a sister, Candice Dials; and his grandparents, C.W. and Barbara White, and Mrs. Delores Thomason and Mrs. Delane Ingram; also a great-grandmother, Mrs. Ruth Wilson, as well as so many aunts and uncles and nieces and nephews and in-laws. Tomorrow, I will join this group of Sergeant Jordan's family, friends and supporters at his funeral to honor the life of this brave soldier.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers go out to his family, and my deepest gratitude goes out to Sergeant Jordan for his selfless sacrifice, yes, for our Nation.

I ask all Members, please join me in honoring the distinguished memory of Sergeant Jeffrey W. Jordan.

CLIMATE CHANGE HEARING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, as we speak here on the floor of the House right now, the House Agriculture Committee is holding a hearing on the legislation reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the so-called cap-and-trade legislation. Many of us know it as cap-and-tax or a massive new energy tax on the American people.

The Agriculture Committee has wisely decided to hold a hearing on this